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How to submit a book for *State of the Arts*

To submit a book by a Montana author for inclusion in *State of the Arts*' "About Books" section:

Please send a copy of the book to *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trl., Charlo, MT 59824; or submit the following information electronically to wroteus@livelytimes.com or mac@mt.gov:

- Title, author, publisher, publisher's address and month/year published;
- Price and whether it's hard- or softcover;
- A brief description of the book (no more than 200 words), and a short bio of the author;
- A cover image: minimum 200 dpi in pdf, jpg or tiff file;
- If other publications or authors have reviewed the book, send a brief sampling of those remarks.

If you would like us to return the book, include a note with it saying so. (We will pay for shipping.)

E-books: We'll also mention books that are only electronically published: send title, author, a cover image, website for downloads, and a brief paragraph about the book.

Books submitted to *State of the Arts* appear in this publication at the Montana Arts Council's discretion and as space permits, and will not necessarily be reprinted in *Lively Times*.

ABOUT BOOKS

American Plains Bison: Rewilding an Icon

By **James A. Bailey**
Published 2013 by Farcountry Press, Helena, MT
\$19.95 softcover

James Bailey's fascination with nature began as a child hunting with his father and participating in Boy Scouts. But it wasn't until his second retirement that Bailey began his in-depth study of the American Plains Bison.

"About 50 years ago, I heard Aldo Leopold's son, Starker, describe a policy for preserving examples of wild North America in some of our national parks," said the doctor of wildlife ecology. "That stimulated a long personal and professional interest in the Park Service strategy of naturalness."

Under federal law, the National Park Service must maintain natural ecosystems to preserve "wild" park resources unimpaired for future generations.

"When I retired to Montana," said Bailey, "I saw Yellowstone National Park, under pressure from the state, deviating greatly from its mandate in bison management." His study of the wildness of bison in the United States, culminated in his new book, *American Plains Bison: Rewilding an Icon*, which provides an original analysis of 44 conservation herds of bison and the effects of domestication on the wild bison genome.

According to Bailey, more than 200,000 bison are being domesticated in private, commercial herds in the United States. For over 100 years, such domestication is also underway among the 17,000 wild bison in mostly public herds.

His book explores the inadequacies of maintaining wild bison, and offers examples of places where contiguous public lands could be set aside for wild bison and other rare species. These grassland reserves, he believes, could help restore the shrinking wild bison population and maintain its important natural contributions to grassland ecosystems.

The author was a professor of biology at Colorado State University for 20 years, and taught big-game management and wildlife nutrition.



Adventure Tales of Montana's Last Frontier

By **Gary A. Wilson**
Published 2013 by Riverbend Publishing, Helena, MT
\$14.95 softcover

The characters and stories in Gary Wilson's latest book are centered in Montana's Milk River Country, nicknamed the "Hi-Line" by surveyors for the Great Northern Railroad, "because of the rails' ascent from Havre to the Marias Pass summit," on the Continental Divide.

The area is home to several Native American tribes, but was opened to white settlement in 1887, thus bringing an influx of cattle ranchers, railroad employees, outlaws, fur traders, and hardy pioneers hoping to make a good life for themselves and their families.

Itinerant clergymen, "cattle queens," fugitives from justice, "the world's youngest" female trick rodeo rider, and a famous Gros Ventre warrior are just a few of the characters we meet. The author includes a profile of the life of beloved clergyman "Brother Van," a Methodist minister credited with helping to establish 100 churches, several hospitals and Montana Wesleyan University, now Rocky Mountain College.

Wilson is particularly adept at describing notable battle scenes and gunfights, detailing the participants, their strategies and the outcomes of the querulous situations.

The search for Marias Pass by John Stevens, the extension of the Great Northern Railroad, the violent history of the town of Glasgow, and the development of the town of Havre are all part of this vivid portrait of the area's "panoramic past."

Wilson is the author of previous regional histories including *Tiger of the Wild Bunch: The Life and Death of Harvey "Kid Curry" Logan*, *Long George Francis: Gentleman Outlaw of Montana*, and *Honky-Tonk Town: Havre, Montana's Lawless Era*.

— Judy Shafter

Jacob and the Giant

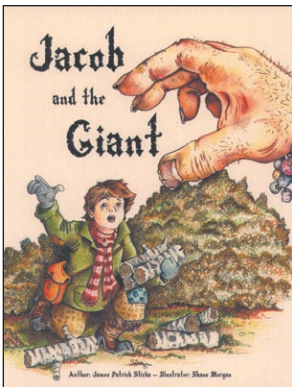
By **James Patrick Sticka**, with illustrations by **Shane Morgan**
Published in 2013 by Wordcrafter's Guild Press, Bigfork
\$19.95 hardcover; \$14.95 softcover

When Jacob takes his father's wagon and two stout horses to the Dark Forest to gather firewood for the family, his mother sends a basket of kiss-nip for the journey (recipe included!), and warns the boy – as any mother would – not to talk to strangers.

As he begins to gather firewood, he's snatched up by a hairy, grouchy giant, and carried to a cave far away. There, he befriends a sparrow and hatches a plan to outsmart his captor.

James Sticka, a cabinet and furniture maker who lives on the shores of Flathead Lake, says the tale is inspired by the stories his grandfather told, and that he shared with his own four sons. Kalispell artist Shane Morgan deftly brings this charming tale to life with illustrations of the garrulous giant and resourceful hero.

Visit stickastories.com.



A Hard Won Life: A Boy on His Own on the Montana Frontier

By **Norman Hyatt**
Published 2014 by Farcountry Press, Helena, MT

\$25 softcover; \$35 hardcover

Based on the hand-written memoir of Fred Van Blaricom, *A Hard Won Life* tells the true story of a life of hardship and hope in the Montana and Dakota territories during the late 1800s.

When he was just 7 years old, Freddie's mother died of typhoid fever and her nine children were scattered like chaff on the wind. Freddie and his younger sister, Alice, are sent to live with a cousin and her abusive husband in a shack five miles west of Forsyth.

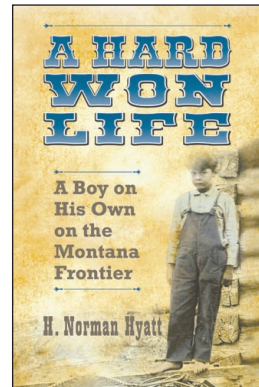
As the beatings escalate, Freddie realized he had to escape and go for help. In the middle of February 1883, he set out to cross the frozen Yellowstone River.

The river was frozen, but a recent chinook had left slush on top about ankle deep. "That didn't stop me," Freddie recounted.

He crossed the river and followed the railroad track towards Glendive, "125 miles to go, my grubstake two slices of bread, two pieces of beefsteak, no water, no houses for miles, and no one that gave a damn whether I made it or not ... and me 7 years old."

He made it to Glendive where he soon became the Huckleberry Finn of eastern Montana, breaking horses, helping catch a horse thief, meeting a young Teddy Roosevelt and, at age 10, riding alone 100 miles to work a ranch in the Dakota Territories.

Hyatt, who resides in Washington and is a descendent of early pioneers, tells the story in Freddie's voice, describing a life of struggle against many obstacles, all overcome or abided with no complaint. As Freddie puts it: "The hero was thrown, but the horse was tamed."



Hog's Exit: Jerry Daniels, the Hmong, and the CIA (Modern Southeast Asia Series)

By **Gayle L. Morrison**
Published 2013 by Texas Tech University Press, Lubbock, TX
\$39.95 softcover

Gayle Morrison became interested in the life and death of Jerry "Hog" Daniels while working with Hmong refugees in a resettlement camp in California in 1978. "Mr. Hog's" name came up repeatedly, and news of his death in 1982 was an emotional jolt to many of her Hmong acquaintances.

In 1997, she began a 10-year project to methodically uncover Daniel's story through hundreds of interviews, newspaper clippings and letters to his friends and family.

Daniels was an experienced smokejumper for the U.S. Forest Service when he was recruited in 1961 by the CIA to work as a cargo kicker in Laos, dropping arms and supplies to Laotian military forces as part of the CIA's secret war. This was the beginning of two decades spent in Southeast Asia.

Intermittently, Daniels returned to Missoula to complete his degree at The University of Montana. Between semesters, he went back to Laos, where he rose in the ranks with the CIA. His extraordinary dedication to the Hmong people became legendary. He lived and worked alongside them in the harshest of conditions, and helped facilitate the evacuation of 2,500 refugees to Thailand in 1975 when communist forces overtook South Vietnam and threatened Laos.

Daniels remained in Thailand, working for the State Department Refugee Program, and over the years assisted hundreds of Hmong refugees in relocating to cities in the U.S., including Missoula.

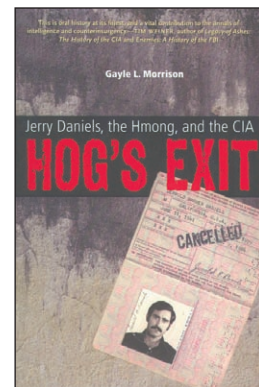
In the spring of 1981, on a visit to Missoula, Daniels told some of his friends that he was unhappy with what was going on with his job, and he wanted to quit and come home for good. On May 1, 1982, the American Embassy in Bangkok reported that Daniels had died of carbon monoxide poisoning while asleep in his apartment. A faulty gas heater was blamed. The U.S. State Department ordered his casket permanently sealed before being shipped home.

Daniel's funeral in Missoula was a three-day event, organized by his Hmong friends and conducted according to their tradition. But decades later, friends and family members continue to question the circumstances of his death, and "remain unconvinced that the U.S. government told them the truth."

While this engrossing book does not offer any answers, it does shed light on a complex slice of history and Daniels's heroism.

Morrison is the author of *Sky Is Falling: An Oral History of the CIA's Evacuation of the Hmong from Laos*. She has worked with the Hmong community since 1977 in education, refugee services, and as a historian and writer. She divides her time between Santa Ana, CA, and Missoula.

— Judy Shafter



Available Online Only

Behind These Mountains, Vols. I, II and III

By **Mona Leeson Vanek**
\$19.95 in Kindle format only at Amazon.com

When the *Statesman-Examiner*, of Colville, WA, published the first editions of this history of Sanders County and the northern Idaho Panhandle more than two decades ago, the Idaho Writer's League named Noxon author Mona Vanek 1992 Idaho Writer of the Year.

The Kindle editions, published in the past year, are titled *Vol. I: People of the Shining Mountains Where The Clark's Fork River Churns*, *Vol. II: God's Country In the United States Of America*, and *Vol. III: The Fabulous Valley In the Foothills Of The Rockies*.

In her review of the Kindle edition, Spokane freelance writer Sue Ellis says the author offers "a panoramic view of three distinct time periods in the history of western Sanders County," and praises the trilogy as "an example of what history ought to be: the poignant and entertaining memories of the people who lived it."

A resident of Noxon for 60 years who now lives in Spokane, Vanek has written for newspapers and magazines, and created a docu-drama based on her book, "Aunt Lena, Cabinet National Forest's Unsung Heroine."